

EUROPARC Federation

**Memorandum of Understanding
with the United States National Parks Service North East Region**

EUROPARC Members' Questionnaire

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☒ Yes, we are interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

☐ No, we are not interested in an exchange programme with a protected area in the United States (North East Region).

Please state reason:

1. If yes, on which topics would you be interested in pursuing cooperation?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> organisational development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ecotourism |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sustainability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marketing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transboundary management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> financing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (please state)
interpretation, research &
monitoring |

2. If yes, what type of exchange would you be interested in ?

- ☒ at staff level (professional development)
☐ at political level (Presidents, Board Members)
☐ other stakeholders (e.g. farmers, tourism businesses)

continued

3. If yes, please give a short description of the features of your park and main areas of current work:

The Natural Heritage Services manage the Finnish protected area system on state owned areas, covering about 3.5 million hectares of lands and about 3.0 million hectares of waters, including a wide spectrum of different categories of protected areas from strict nature reserves and national parks (at present 34 + Koli NP managed by the Finnish Forest Research Institute) to wilderness areas and national hiking areas. For more information on NHS, see our web site (<http://www.metsa.fi/natural/index.htm>).

Rauno Väisänen and Stig Johansson visited the headquarters and NE Region of US NPS in 2001 and discussed preliminarily the potential mutual interests. In the travel report the potential fields of cooperation were analysed in detail from the NHS point of view. The special interests of NHS include interpretation, and (ecological) research, inventories and monitoring. NHS would be very interested to cooperate with Stephen T. Mather Training Center, Harpers Ferry Interpretative Design Center and Interpretive Media Institute as well as with the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units. In addition, there is some interest to fire management and thus cooperation with National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) at Boise, Ohio.

The EUROPARC Nordic-Baltic Section was established in January 2003 and its statutes are likely to be endorsed by the EUROPARC Council in April. The section includes the EUROPARC members Nordic and Baltic countries, though it is very likely that the number of members will increase considerably in the near future. At present the Section covers e.g. about hundred national parks. There is a lot of interest to increase the trans-Atlantic cooperation with the US NPS, e.g. in the field of education (starting from the universal competencies provided by the Horace M. Albright Training Center), financing and ecotourism. Marine protected areas might be a new field of joint interest. However, at the section-level the needs have not yet been analysed in similar detail as in the case of NHS.

Signed: Rauno Väisänen

Date: 3 March 2003

Please return by 20 March 2003 to:

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